

Academic Honesty:

The Legal and Ethical Use of Information for Students

What is Academic Honesty?

Academic Honesty requires writers, creators and developers of ideas, images and written documents to give credit to those individuals who originally created the work or concept.

Academic Dishonesty is any kind of cheating that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise. It can include:

- **Plagiarism**: The adoption or reproduction of original creations of another author (person, collective, organization, community or other type of author, including anonymous authors) without due acknowledgment.
- **Fabrication**: The falsification of data, information, or **citations** in any formal academic exercise.
- **Deception**: Providing false information to an instructor concerning a formal academic exercise—e.g., giving a false excuse for missing a deadline or falsely claiming to have submitted work.
- **Cheating**: Any attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise (like an **examination**) without due acknowledgment.

(Academic Honesty 2011)

So what's the problem?

- Widespread phenomenon
- On the increase
- Academic dishonesty is an ethical issue
- Academic dishonesty is a legal issue

Copyright, that's just books, right?

- Copyright respects the authors' or producers' ethical and legal ownership of their work
- Ownership of intellectual property includes books, articles, music, movies, artwork, photographs and the Internet
- You must acknowledge copyrighted information when you write a research paper, create a poster, post a web site or do a presentation

Academic Dishonesty/ Plagiarism, it's like...

“lip-synching to someone else’s voice and accepting the applause and rewards for yourself”

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owlprint/658/>

What Counts as Plagiarism/ Academic Dishonesty?

- Using an essay from another course/source
- Copying a friend's homework or project
- Using another person's ideas as your own
- Copying and pasting from an online database, electronic encyclopedia, or the Internet

What Counts as Plagiarism/ Academic Dishonesty?

- Buying a paper from the Internet or another source
- Finding an essay in a foreign language and then using a program to translate it
- Faking (or making up) a citation
- Direct quoting of a source without citation
- Paraphrasing but not citing the source

Why do students plagiarize? They tell us:

I didn't know I was plagiarizing

- I don't really understand the concepts of academic honesty and plagiarism

I didn't think I could do a good job on my own

- I'm not confident that my research and writing skills are as developed as they should be

Why do students plagiarize? They tell us:

I didn't have time

- I have a heavy workload at school, a part-time job, responsibilities at home

I was under a lot of pressure

- School is very competitive and I need top marks to get into college or university

I thought I could get away with it

- Lots of other students do

When do I need to cite something?

You need to cite when:

- The information, concept, image or idea is not your own.
- The teacher tells you that the assignment or task is formal, and will be evaluated for your grade.
- The teacher tells you that you will be practicing citation format.

What information do I need to create my citation?

It varies from text form to text form but you will need to know some specific information about your resource. Essentially, the information you provide will allow people to find the exact same resource. It is a good idea to keep track of your resources while you are researching so that it will be easy to find when you need to complete your assignment.

Required Information - Samples

Website

- Author
- Name of Web Page
- Name of Web Site
- Year/Month/Day created
- Year/Month/Day accessed
- URL

Book

- Author
- Title
- Year
- City
- Publisher

Required Information - Samples

Brochure

- Author
- Title
- Publication Date
- Year/Month/Date created
- City
- State/Province
- Publisher

Journal Article

- Author
- Title
- Year/Month/Day created
- Pages used
- Volume Number
- Issue Number
- Periodical Title

How do I know which style to use?

There are several different types of citation formats available for use in academic studies but most often students in high school will use MLA (Modern Language Association), APA (American Psychological Association) or the Chicago format.

Basically though, the style you will use will depend upon the ***type of assignment*** you are completing. ***Your teacher will be able to tell you which style is required.***

How do I cite in my assignment?

MLA in text citation samples

- Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).
- Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
- Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

How do I cite in my assignment?

APA in text citation samples

- According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).
- Jones (1998) found "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199); what implications does this have for teachers?

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

How do I cite in my assignment?

Chicago in text citation samples (author, date version)

- (Contributors' Surnames, year of publication, page or section number when available).
- (Clements et al. 2011).

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/02/>

What if I can't remember all this?

Please remember:

- The goal of every teacher is to ensure that you develop the skills and attitudes that will make academically honest.
- Teachers mark “process”. They want to see a progression from the initial selection of a topic, the gathering of resources, the synthesis of information, and the transfer of learning.

Academic Honesty: Give credit where credit is due.

- Acknowledge your sources of ideas and information when you write a paper, create a poster, pamphlet or brochure, post a web site or do a presentation.

Use Information in a Legal and Ethical Way

- Realize the time and effort it takes to complete your assignments
- Give yourself time
- Be confident in the value of your own ideas
- Be yourself in your writing
- Develop strong research and literacy skills
- Ask for assistance from teachers, librarians, friends, and family.

Additional Help is Available

For lessons on how and when to cite information:

OWL at Purdue University: Avoiding Plagiarism

www.owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/REsearchW/plag.htm

For Style Guides

www.mla.org

www.apastyle.org

www.chicagomanualofstyle.org

To Create Citations

www.easybib.org

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